

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the July 18, 2013 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Tom Raffio presided as Chairman.

Members present: Tom Raffio, Cindy C. Chagnon, Gary W. Groleau, Gregory Odell, Emma Rous, and James C. Schubert. Helen G. Honorow was unable to be present but participated by telephone until 11:00 a.m. Also in attendance was Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education. Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education, was unable to be present.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

James Schubert led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Doris Hohensee said she would like the Board to let the public and the legislature decide on what to do regarding SB 82 which establishes a commission to identify strategies needed for developing and implementing a competency-based public education system and not set up a Task Force as Senator Stiles had suggested at the June meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. Update on Charter Schools – Chairman Raffio said that the Board would be reviewing four new charter schools at this meeting.

B. Update on NH Department of Education ESEA Flexibility Waiver – Commissioner Barry reported that the Department has named priority and focus schools designated under the ESEA waiver formula. This list is now up on the website. Commissioner Barry said to receive an ESEA waiver each state must identify and prioritize for support five percent of the state's lower-performing Title I schools, selected as Priority Schools. Schools currently participating in the federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) program are also included in this category. To identify the Priority Schools, a combined index score (student performance scores in reading and mathematics combined) for the whole school group was calculated for the most recent three years.

To identify Focus Schools, the NECAP index scores for reading and math identifying a gap between highest performing students and ELL and Special Education.

C. Update on Manchester School District – Commissioner Barry said they had met with Superintendent Brennan before he left and would be meeting with the new Superintendent, Dr. Debra Livingston, and the transition team.

D. Update on Unity – Judy Fillion, Jeff Blaney, Elaine Arbour, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for SAU #6, Tim Ball, Director of Business and Finance, and Shawn Randall, Chair of the Unity School Board, were present. Mr. Blaney reported that the Fire Marshall's office said that no further work could be done on the construction of the new school until the final design has been submitted and approved. Helen Honorow is concerned about how transitioning students from Claremont to the new Unity School will occur and wants to ensure it will not impact educational hours. Assistant Superintendent Arbour said that as of July 17, 2013 it is unlikely that the Unity Elementary School will be open for children on August 26, 2013. Superintendent McGoodwin recently put forward three tentative plans for dealing with such a scenario. It looks like the district will be using Plan "C" to address a longer delay of a month or more. Dr. Arbour discussed the educational plan for Grades K-5 who will attend the Disnard Elementary School in Claremont and Grades 6 through 8 who will attend the Claremont Middle School in Claremont. Chairman Raffio said that the Department has to determine if Plan "C" meets the School Approval requirements. Board members expressed concern regarding the safety of the students, the performance bond, and the windows still not being in compliance. Chairman Raffio said the Board would like a concrete answer in writing about the performance bond for the August 19th meeting. Mr. Ball indicated he will obtain and submit a written opinion from the SAU's legal counsel regarding the performance bond issue.

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. The Founders Academy Chartered Public School, Grades 6-12 – Thomas Frischknecht, President and Chairman of the Academy, and Kimberly Lavalley, Board Chair, Jenn Cava, School Director, Academy for Science and Design Charter School, were present. Mr. Frischknecht spoke to this charter school and presented a power point. The Founders Academy presented an application to the Board of approval to operate as an approved chartered public school. In January 2014, The Founders Academy Chartered Public School plans to open in the Londonderry area with 100 students in grades 6-7. In the future, the Academy intends to offer a classical education to students in grades 6-12. The charter school will develop leaders who understand and apply the lessons of the past, demonstrate exceptional character and lead by example.

The Academy recognizes the importance of balance in the development of the whole person and respects each student's journey. Board members had several questions regarding this charter school. Commissioner Barry supports this charter school after having met with the parties to discuss the application submitted.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education authorizes The Founders Academy Chartered Public School application to move forward with projected enrollment figures of up to 100 students in the first year of enrollment and up to 200 students in the next four years.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Gate City Charter School for the Arts – Karin Cevalco, Co-Chair, Rebecca Fredrickson, Co-Chair, and Betsy Moore, Development Committee, were present and spoke to this charter school. In September 2014, Gate City Charter School for the Arts plans to open in Nashua with 100 students in grades K-4. In the future, this charter school intends to offer an arts-integrated curriculum to students in grades K-8. Gates City Charter School for the Arts will use an arts-integrated curriculum to educate all interested students in grades K-8, to produce graduates who excel in both academics and the Arts and have the knowledge, creativity and inquisitive nature that foster a life-long love of learning. Commissioner Barry supports this charter school after having met with the parties to discuss the application submitted.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education authorizes the Gate City Charter School for the Arts application to move forward with projected enrollment figures of up to 100 students within the first five years.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Mountain Village Charter School – Katy Gautsch, Chair, Thea Dodds, Rodney Ekstrom, Bryan Felice, Jamie Hannon, and Dick Hage, were present. Ms. Gautsch spoke to this issue and presented a power point. In September 2014, Mountain Village Charter School plans to open in the Plymouth area with 56 students in grades 1-3. In the future, the charter school intends to offer a nature-based Montessori education to students in grades K-8. Mountain Village Charter School will provide an educational community engaging the child through a nature-based, Montessori approach. The curriculum will inspire abstract thinking by exploring creative thought and critical reasoning. The approach will place equal emphasis on rigorous academics, artistic expression, social development and community service. Commissioner Barry supports this charter school after having met with the parties to discuss the application submitted.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education authorizes the Mountain Village Charter School application to move forward with projected enrollment figures of up to 56 students within the first five years.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

D. Seacoast High School for the Arts – Wendie Leweck, Chair, and Don Erdbrink, Vice Chair, were present. Wendie Leweck spoke to this charter school. In September 2014, Seacoast High School for the Arts plans to open in the Derry/Salem area with 160 students in grades 9-12. It also plans to change the name of the school to Granite State Arts Academy while maintaining the same mission and vision. The new charter high school will nurture creative thinkers, active citizens and independent learners with a curriculum that integrates the Arts and academics, and furthers the academic pursuits of all pupils.

Chairman Raffio thanked Wendie Leweck for the updates at this meeting including the new location and name. We encourage you to consider the feedback provided. The Board is looking forward to your formal application presentation on August 19.

E. Student/Pembroke School Board – SB-FY-13-04-007 – Alison Minutell, Attorney for the District, and Superintendent of Schools Patty Sherman, were present. The parent was unable to attend. Chairman Raffio asked the parties if they would like this hearing in public or nonpublic session. They elected to hold the hearing in nonpublic session. The issue is Manifest Educational Hardship for the daughter.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; James Schubert – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopts the Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to come out of nonpublic session.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: Emma Rous – Yes; Gary Groleau – Yes; Gregory Odell – Yes; Cindy Chagnon – Yes; James Schubert – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes.

MOTION: Gregory Odell made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopts the Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

F. Student/Con-Val School Board – SB-FY-13-04-008 – The parent, Marian Alese, Business Administrator, Butch Estey, Chair of the Con-Val School Board, and Alision Minutell, Attorney for the District, were present. Chairman Raffio asked the parties if they would like the hearing held in public or nonpublic session. The parent elected to hold this hearing in public session. The issue is transportation to an elementary school for the parent's children. Each party presented testimony. Chairman Estey will let the Department know the results of the school board meeting with the parent on the transportation issue of the children.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education table this item until the August 19, 2013 meeting.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Initial Proposal for Selected Sections of Ed 500 and Ed 600 – Mary Mayo spoke to this rule. A vote is needed by the Board to enter the rulemaking process to adopt the initial proposal for selected sections of Ed 500 and Ed 600 which include Ed 504, Professional Credentials, Ed 507.02 and Ed 507.03 Career and Technical Education Teacher and Specialty, Ed 507.09 and Ed 612.01 Visual Arts Teacher and Preparation Program, Ed 507.251 and Ed 614.14, Elementary Mathematics Specialist for grades K-6 and Teacher Preparation Program, and Ed 507.51 Physical Science for Grades 7-12. The Career and Technical Education, Teacher, Career Technical Specialty, Visual Arts, Physical Science and the Professional Credential rules are being re-adopted because the existing rules have expired. They have been updated to reflect current standards and practices and approved by the Professional Standards Board. A new endorsement is being added to certification and teacher preparation program rules for Elementary Mathematics Specialist based on the recommendation of the NH State Task Force on Mathematics Instruction and endorsed by the Professional Standards Board. If the Board adopts the initial proposal, the Department will enter the rulemaking process by filing it with the JLCAR, along with a request for a fiscal impact statement. The Board will hold a public hearing at its September meeting. This information will be published in the Rulemaking Register next month.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, that the State Board of Education adopt the Initial Proposal for Selected Sections of Ed 500 and Ed 600. The State Board of Education will hold a public hearing on this filing September 26, 2013 at 11 a.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

A. Priorities of State Board – Chairman Raffio mentioned the Business and Education Coalition that met recently. Thirty-two people, including business leaders, educators, political leaders and public policy experts, attended the second meeting. They will be setting goals and mapping out an initiative on STEM.

Chairman Raffio mentioned that there will be two hearings on the Minimum Standards – August 19th and September 9th.

A Board Retreat will be scheduled shortly. Discussions will include charter schools, common core, minimum standards, and smarter balanced aligned with the common core.

Chairman Raffio mentioned that the Great Bay eLearning Charter School will be requesting permission to add grade seven to the grade levels that they currently serve at the Great Bay eLearning Charter School.

B. Education Reform

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Barry said that the new Superintendent in the Manchester School District would be willing to come meet with the Board if that is their wish and new leadership is going to be very helpful in setting goals for the district.

James Schubert mentioned he is involved in the Children in Need of Supervision (CHINS) program where there will be about thirty students in grades 5 – 8 who are struggling in school. This program will be to help them stay in school and that part of the process is to get this program off the ground. This program will be for students in the Manchester area attending Manchester schools.

Commissioner Barry said that various organizations in Nashua are coordinating programs for children and families through Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and other agencies.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Minutes of June 13, 2013 Meeting**

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to approve the Minutes of June 13, 2013.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

B. Ratify Vote and Issue Certificate for the Rollinsford Withdrawal from the Somersworth-Rollinsford Authorized Regional Enrollment AREA – A vote is needed by the Board to ratify the vote of the Rollinsford School District meeting taken March 12, 2013, which approved the plan for the withdrawal of Rollinsford from the AREA. At the November 21, 2012 meeting of the State Board of Education, the Board approved the plan for withdrawal of Rollinsford from the Somersworth-Rollinsford AREA submitted by the Rollinsford Withdrawal Planning Committee. At the annual Rollinsford School District meeting the voters approved the plan by a vote of 590 to 125. The clerk of the school board has submitted the evidence required by RSA 195-A:14, VII in order for the State Board to make its finding and issue its certificate of withdrawal. Based on the evidence submitted, if the Board finds that a majority of the voters, present and voting, have voted to approve the plan, it may issue a certificate of withdrawal. The certificate of withdrawal is conclusive evidence of Rollinsford's lawful withdrawal from the Somersworth-Rollinsford AREA effective July 1, 2015.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by Cindy Chagnon, that the State Board of Education finds that a majority of the voters of Rollinsford that were present and voted on March 12, 2013 did approve the plan for withdrawal of Rollinsford from the AREA and that the State Board of Education issue a certificate of withdrawal to Rollinsford. The withdrawal from the Somersworth-Rollinsford AREA is effective July 1, 2015.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

C. Monadnock Regional Cooperative School District Amendment to Cooperative School District Agreement – The State Board of Education needs to accept the records submitted by the Monadnock Regional Cooperative School District that documents are evidence of a change in the apportionment formula for operating costs that was approved by the 2013 annual school district meeting and issue a certificate to provide conclusive apportionment evidence of the lawful adoption of the change in the apportionment formula. On February 20, 2013 the State Board of Education unanimously approved a petition warrant article to change the apportionment formula for the allocation of operating expenses in the cooperative school district. The district meeting of the Monadnock Regional Cooperative School District, which held its second session on March 12, 2013, approved the article by a vote of 1170-708. Issuance of the certificate by the State Board will provide the district with conclusive evidence of lawful adoption of a change in the Monadnock Regional Cooperative School District apportionment formula for operating expenses.

MOTION: Gary Groleau made the motion, seconded by James Schubert, that the State Board of Education, having found that the vote was properly noticed and the necessary approval by the voters having been obtained, does now issue its certificate to the Monadnock Regional Cooperative School District.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

D. Tuition Contracts

1. Sullivan School District and Nelson School District Kindergarten Through Grade six – Sullivan does not maintain a public school for grades kindergarten through grade six. The Nelson School District maintains an elementary school for grades kindergarten through six that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Sullivan students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit students who reside in the Sullivan School District to receive a public education in the Nelson School District, for grades kindergarten through six at Sullivan's expense. It will also make Nelson School District's elementary school the school maintained by the Sullivan School District.

2. Piermont School District and Oxbow School District – Piermont does not maintain a public high school. The Oxbow School District does maintain a high school that is approved by the Vermont Department of Education and is willing to accept Piermont students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit high school students who reside in the Piermont School District to receive a public education in the Oxbow School District at Piermont's expense.

3. Bath School District and Haverhill Cooperative School District - Bath does not maintain a public middle or high school. The Haverhill Cooperative School District does maintain a middle and a high school and both are approved by the State Board of Education. It is willing to accept Bath students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit students in grades 7-12 who reside in the Bath School District to receive a public education in the Haverhill Cooperative School District at Bath's expense. It will also make the schools in the Haverhill Cooperative School District the schools maintained by the Bath School District.

4. Benton School District and Haverhill Cooperative School District – Benton does not maintain public schools. The Haverhill Cooperative School District does maintain elementary and secondary public schools that are approved by the Board. It is willing to accept Benton students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit students who reside in the Benton School District to receive a public education in the Haverhill Cooperative School District at Benton's expense. It will also make the schools in the Haverhill Cooperative School District the schools maintained by the Benton School District.

5. Warren School District and Haverhill Cooperative School District – Warren does not maintain a public middle/high school. The Haverhill Cooperative School District does maintain a middle high school that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Warren students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit middle and high school students who reside in the Warren School District to receive a public education in the Haverhill Cooperative School District at Warren's expense. It will also make the middle and high schools in the Haverhill Cooperative School District the middle and high schools maintained by the Warren School District.

6. Bath School District and Lisbon School District – Bath does not maintain a public middle school or high school. The Lisbon School District does maintain a middle high school and a high school and both are approved by the Board. It is willing to accept Bath students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit students in grades 7-12 who reside in the Bath School District to receive a public education in the Lisbon School District at Bath's expense. It will also make the schools in the Lisbon School District the schools maintained by the Bath School District.

7. Piermont School District and Rivendell Interstate School District – Piermont does not maintain a public high school. The Rivendell Interstate School District does maintain a high school that is approved by the New Hampshire and Vermont Departments of Education and is willing to accept Piermont students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit high school students who reside in the Piermont School District to receive a public education in the Rivendell Interstate School District at Piermont's expense.

8. Piermont School District and Haverhill Cooperative School District – Piermont does not maintain a public high school. The Haverhill Cooperative School District does maintain a high school that is approved by the Board and is willing to accept Piermont students on a tuition basis. Approval of this contract will permit high school students who reside in the Piermont School District to receive a public education in the Haverhill Cooperative School District at Piermont's expense. It will also make the high school in the Haverhill Cooperative School District the high school maintained by the Piermont School District.

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gary Groleau, to approve the above Tuition Contracts.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. TABLED ITEMS

There were no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board went into nonpublic session under Special Presentations.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Cindy Chagnon made the motion, seconded by Gregory Odell, that the State Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 2 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.



Secretary